Manavalakurichi—Colachel Road.

84. *Mr. K. R. Elankath: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received representations regarding the deplorable condition of the Manavalakurichi—Colachel road;

(*b*) if so, what was the action taken;

(*c*) the number of carts that daily pass through the road and and the amount realised for the last two years at the sub-toll gates at Mandacaud and Colachel?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Miles 13 and 14 of Colachel-Rajakamangalam road were re-coated in 1112 and are in fair order. The balance portion of the road, *i. e.*, miles 11, 12 and the first 6 furlongs of 15th mile, has been taken up for re-coating du ring the current year.

(*c*) No statistics are taken by the department regarding the number of carts passing through the road. The gates at Mandacaud and Colachel are leased out along with other gates and hence it is not poseible to ascertain the amounts realised from these gates.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: With reference to the answer to part (*c*), may I know whether statistics are not available in the toll gate?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: Statisites may be available, but they are not the property of Government.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I know whether in the leasing out of tolls, it would not be better if the accounts are known to Government?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: So long as the toll gates are sold in public auction, it is expected that a decent amount is realised.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I know whether more than 200 carts pass through that road every day?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I know whether it is not difficult to walk through the road when there is knee deep of mud?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: It is not knee deep. Sometimes it is a bit difficult to walk through the road.

Mr. K. R. Elankath: May I know whether in view of the fact that the Government get a decent amount of money by-way of toll collection, they cannot maintain the roads properly?

Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar: That is the reason why an estimate has been sanctioned and the work for a sum of Rs. 16,000 has been started. More than 75 per cent. of the work is completed and the rest will be completed in two months' time.

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